

Benjamin Spooner Papers

S1229
1862-1864
2 folders

Rare Books and Manuscripts Division
Indiana State Library

Processed by: Barbara Hilderbrand, January 2007
Finding aid revised by: Bethany Fiechter, 2015/10/30

Biographical Note:

Benjamin J. Spooner was born in Mansfield, Ohio to Charles and Mary Spooner on October 27, 1823. He was schooled in public and private schools in Ohio and Indiana before being apprenticed to a tanner at the age of thirteen. On August 21, 1845, Spooner married Eliza J. Callahan of Lawrenceburg and they subsequently had eleven children together. With the outbreak of the Mexican-American War, Spooner enlisted in the Army and was elected Second Lieutenant of Company K, 3rd Indiana Volunteers. After his service he returned home to Lawrenceburg, Indiana and began to study law with his brother Philip. After being admitted to the bar he began practicing law in Lawrenceburg and was prosecuting attorney for his circuit for two years.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Spooner enlisted and formed the first company for Dearborn County. He was commissioned a Lieutenant-Colonel in the 7th Indiana Regiment. After the 7th Regiment was disbanded, Spooner joined the 51st Indiana Regiment as a Lieutenant-Colonel on December 4, 1861. Spooner resigned from the 51st Regiment in June 1862 and later received a commission as a Colonel in the 83rd Indiana Regiment on October 3, 1862. Spooner lost his left arm from the battle at Kenesaw, Georgia in 1864 and was reassigned to a military commission to try Indiana and Chicago conspirators. Spooner was honorably discharged in April 1865.

After the War, Spooner was appointed United States Marshal of the Indiana District. He resigned from this position in 1879. Spooner passed away on April 3, 1881 in Lawrenceburg.

Sources:

Biographical History of Eminent and Self-made Men of the State of Indiana, vol. 1. Cincinnati: Western Biographical Pub. Co., 1880.

Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, vol. 3. Indianapolis: Samuel M. Douglass, 1866.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains general and special orders to Benjamin Spooner and the 83rd regiment from O.P. Morton and Laz Noble. Also included are letters of the 83rd regiment and a petition of commissioned officers.

The materials within this collection are Photostat copies and have been arranged in chronological order.

Box and Folder Listing:

Box 1.

Folder

1. Correspondence 1862-1863
 2. Correspondence 1863-1864
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Collection Information:

<i>Size of Collection:</i>	2 folders (67 items)
<i>Collection Dates:</i>	1862-1864
<i>Provenance:</i>	Conway Barker, April 1967
<i>Access:</i>	This collection is open for research.
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<i>Alternate Formats:</i>	None
<i>Related Holdings:</i>	
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